My brothers and sisters in the household of God,

As we celebrate Easter during this year’s unprecedented pandemic, we find ourselves in a position very similar to that experienced by Christ’s disciples during that first Easter. They were, like all of us today, gathered together inside a house with the doors shut. They were, as are we today, “afraid” (John 20:19, 26). But they were not alone. Neither are we.

“When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples had assembled for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, ‘Peace be with you!’” (John 20:19)

My dear brothers and sisters, we are not alone! Christ is in our midst. Remember that He assured us that “where two or three are gathered together in my name, I am there among them” (Mt. 18:20). He who believes is never alone. He who prays is never alone. This is so because we pray to God the Father, with Christ, in the Holy Spirit. We pray in communion with the saints as they ceaselessly pray for us. Even if the present circumstances prevent us, for the time being, from gathering together in our churches, be assured that the grace and blessing of God will be with us as we make our homes and our hearts His Holy Church.

Therefore, “do not be afraid” (Mark 5:36; 6:50). For although there will always be darkness and sorrow in the world such as that which we have experienced in the past few weeks, we firmly believe that Christ, who rose from the dead and has dominion over the living and the dead, has overcome the world: “In the world you will have tribulation. But take courage! I have overcome the world” (John 16:33).

May the unwaning Light of the Risen Lord radiate in your hearts and bring you peace! Christos Anesti!

With Archpastoral love,

+ M E T H O D I O S
Metropolitan of Boston

May the unwaning Light of the Risen Lord radiate in your hearts and bring you peace! Christos Anesti!

With Archpastoral love,

+ M E T H O D I O S
Metropolitan of Boston
Πασχαλιον Μηνυμα

ΠΑΣΧΑ 2020

Προς το ευσεβες πλήρωμα της Ιερας Μητροπολεως Βοστώνης

Αγαπητοι μου εν Χριστω αδελφοι,

Ο εορτασμος του Πασχα φετος εν μεσω πανδημιας μας βρισκει κατω απο παρομοιες αντιξεις συνθηκες όπως και αυτες τις οποιες έζησαν οι μαθητες του Κυριου κατα το πρωτο εκεινο Πασχα. Ήταν και αυτοι τότε, όπως και εμεις σήμερα, συγκεντρωμενοι εντος της οικιας τους και κεκλεισμενων των θυρων. Ήταν και εκεινοι, όπως και εμεις σήμερα, φοβισμενοι (Ιω. 20:19, 26). Πλην όμως, δεν ήσαν μονοι, όπως δεν ειμαστε μονοι ουτε κι εμεις.

Οδησης ουν υπας τη ημερα εκεινη τη μια σαββατων, και των θυρων κεκλεισμενων όπου ήσαν οι μαθητες συνηγμενοι δια των φοβων των ιουδαιων, ήλθεν ο Ιησους και έστη εις το μεσον, και λεγει αυτοις· Ειρηνη υμιν. (Ιω. 20:19)

Αγαπητοι μου αδελφοι, δεν ειμαστε μονοι! Ο Χριστος ειναι εν τω μεσω ημιων. Όπως μας διαβεβαιωσε, αλλωστε, όπου “γαρ εις δύο ή τρεις συνηγμενοι εις το εμον ονομα, έκει ειμι έν μεσω αυτων” (Μθ. 18:20). Όποιος πιστευει δεν ειναι ποτε μονος. Όποιος προσευχεται δεν ειναι ποτε μονοις. Κι αυτο διοτι δεν προσευχομαστε μονοις, αλλα απευθυνουμε τις προσευχες μας προς τον Θεον Πατερα, μετα του Κυριου ημων Ιησου Χριστου, εν Πνευματι Αγιω. Προσευχομαστε εν κοινωνια με όλους τους αγιους, οι οποιοι επισης προσευχονται αδιαλειτως και για μας. Ακομα κι αν οι παροικες συνθηκες εμποδιζουν, άχρι καιρου, την συμμετοχη μας στην λατρευτικη ζωη της Εκκλησιας, αυτος ο Θεος χασει ποτε να ειναι μαζι μας εφ’ ονας μετατρεψουμε τις οικιες και τις καρδιες μας σε κατοικια του Θεου.

Συνεπως, αδελφοι μου, μη φοβεισθε! (Μκ. 5:36, 6:50) Αν και μεσα στον κοσμο θα συνανταμε
πάντοτε θλίψη και σκότος, σαν κι αυτά που όλοι μας βιώνουμε κατά τις τελευταίες εβδομάδες, ωστόσο δεν παύουμε να πιστεύουμε μετά βεβαιότητος πως ο και νεκρόν και ζώντων την εξουσίαν έχων, ο αναστάς εκ νεκρών Χριστός ο αληθινός Θεός ημών, νίκησε τον κόσμο: “ἐν τῷ κόσμῳ θλίψιν ἔξετε· ἀλλὰ θαρσεῖτε, ἐγὼ νενίκηκα τὸν κόσμον” (Ἰω. 16:33).

Εἴθε το ανέσπερο φως του αναστάντος Χριστού να φωτίζει τις καρδίες σας και να σας χαρίζει ειρήνη! Χριστός ανέστη!

Μετά Πατρικής Αγάπης,
+ Ο Βοστώνης ΜΕΘΟΔΙΟΣ

Saints Constantine and Helen, Equal to the Apostles (May 21st)

This great and renowned sovereign of the Christians was the son of Constantius Chlorus (the ruler of the westernmost parts of the Roman empire) and of the blessed Helen. He was born in 272 in (according to some authorities) Naissus of Dardania, a city on the Hellespont. In 306, when his father died, he was proclaimed successor to his throne. In 312, on learning that Maxentius and Maximinus had joined forces against him, he marched into Italy where, while at the head of his troops, he saw in the sky after midday, beneath the sun, a radiant pillar in the form of a cross with the words: “By this shalt thou conquer.” The following night, our Lord Jesus Christ appeared to him in a dream and declared to him the power of the Cross and its significance. When he arose in the morning, he immediately ordered that a labarum be made (which is a banner or standard of victory over the enemy) in the form of a cross, and he inscribed on it the Name of Jesus Christ. On October 28 he attacked and mightily conquered Maxentius who drowned in the Tiber River while fleeing. The following day, Constantine entered Rome in triumph and was proclaimed Emperor of the West by the Senate, while Licinius, his brother-in-law, ruled in the East. But out of malice, Licinius later persecuted the Christians. Constantine fought him once and again, and utterly destroyed him in 324, and in this manner he became monarch over the West and the East. Under him and because of him, all the persecutions against the Church ceased. Christianity triumphed and idolatry was overthrown.

In 325 he gathered the First Ecumenical Council in Nicaea which he himself personally addressed. In 324, in the ancient city of Byzantium, he laid the foundations of the new capital of his realm and solemnly inaugurated it on May 11, 330, naming it after himself, Constantinople. Since the throne of the imperial rule was transferred to Constantinople from Rome, it was named New Rome, the inhabitants of its domain were called Romans, and it was considered the continuation of the Roman Empire. Falling ill near Nicomedia, he requested to receive divine Baptism according to Eusebius (The Life of Constantine. Book IV, 61-62) and also according to Socrates and Sozomen; and when he had been deemed worthy of the Holy Mysteries, he reposed in 337 on May 21 or 22, the day of Pentecost, having lived sixty-five years, of which he ruled for thirty-one years. His remains were transferred to Constantinople and were deposed in the Church of the Holy Apostles which had been built by him (see Homily XXVI on Second Corinthians by Saint John Chrysostom).

As for his holy mother Helen, after her son had made the Faith of Christ triumphant throughout the Roman Empire, she undertook a journey to Jerusalem and found the Holy Cross on which our Lord was crucified (see Sept. 13 and 14). After this, Saint Helen, in her zeal to glorify Christ, erected churches in Jerusalem at the sites of the Crucifixion and Resurrection, in Bethlehem at the cave where our Saviour was born, another on the Mount of Olives whence He ascended into Heaven, and many others throughout the Holy Land, Cyprus, and elsewhere. She was proclaimed Augusta, her image was stamped upon golden coins, and two cities were named Helenopolis after her in Bithynia and in Palestine. Having been thus glorified for her piety, she departed to the Lord being about eighty years of age, according to some in the year 330, according to others, in 336.
Ascension of our Lord (May 28th)

The Feast of the Ascension of our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ is celebrated each year on the fortieth day after the Great and Holy Feast of Pascha (Easter). Since the date of Pascha changes each year, the date of the Feast of the Ascension changes. The Feast is always celebrated on a Thursday.

The Feast itself commemorates when, on the fortieth day after His Resurrection, Jesus led His disciples to the Mount of Olives, and after blessing them and asking them to wait for the fulfillment of the promise of the Holy Spirit, He ascended into heaven.

Historical Background

The story of the Ascension of our Lord, celebrated as one of the Twelve Great Feasts of the Church, is found in the book of the Acts of the Apostles 1:3-11. It is also mentioned in the Gospels of Mark (16:19) and Luke (24:50-53). The moment of the Ascension is told in one sentence: "He was lifted up before their eyes in a cloud which took Him from their sight" (Acts 1:9).

Christ made His last appearance on earth forty days after His Resurrection from the dead. The Acts of the Apostles states that the disciples were in Jerusalem. Jesus appeared before them and commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the "Promise of the Father". He stated, "You shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now" (Acts 1:5).

After Jesus gave these instructions, He led the disciples to the Mount of Olives. Here, He commissioned them to be His witnesses "in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth" (Acts 1:8). It is also at this time that the disciples were directed by Christ to "go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit" (Matthew 28:19). Jesus also told them that He would be with them always, "even to the end of the world" (Matthew 28:20).

As the disciples watched, Jesus lifted up His hands, blessed them, and then was taken up out of their sight (Luke 24:51; Acts 1:9). Two angels appeared to them and asked them why they were gazing into heaven. Then one of the angels said, "This same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as you have seen Him going into heaven" (Acts 1:11).

Icon of the Feast

The icon of The Ascension of Our Lord is a joyous icon. It is painted with bright colors. Christ is shown ascending in His glory in a mandorla. A mandorla is a design which is almond-shaped or round. Inside
the mandorla is the figure of a holy person. Christ blesses the assembly with His right hand. In His left is a scroll. The scroll is a symbol of teaching. This icon shows that the Lord in heaven is the source of blessing. In addition, Jesus is the source of knowledge. The icon reminds us that Christ continues to be the source of the teaching and message of the Church, blessing and guiding those to whom He has entrusted his work.

The Theotokos occupies a very special place in this icon. She is in the center of the icon immediately below the ascending Christ. The gesture of her hands is gesture of prayer. She is clearly outlined by the whiteness of the garments of the angels. The Theotokos is depicted in a very calm pose. This is quite different from the appearance of the Disciples. They are moving about, talking to one another and looking and pointing towards heaven. The entire group, the Theotokos and the disciples represent the Church.

The icon of the Ascension includes some who did not witness the Ascension. St. Paul is shown to the left of the Theotokos, but we know that he was not present at the Ascension. At that time, St. Paul did not yet believe in Jesus. But he became a Christian and one of the greatest Apostles and missionaries of Church. The icon expresses the sovereignty of Christ over His Church; He is its Head, its guide, its source of inspiration and teaching; it receives its commission and ministry from Him and fulfills it in the power of the Holy Spirit.

**Orthodox Christian Celebration of the Feast of the Ascension**

This Feast of our Lord is celebrated with the Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom which is conducted on the day of the Feast and preceded by the Matins service. A Great Vespers is conducted on the evening before the day of the Feast. Scripture readings for the Feast are the following: At Vespers: Isaiah 2:2-3, 62:10-63:9; Zechariah 14:1,4,8-11. At the Orthros (Matins) Mark 16:9-20; At the Divine Liturgy: Acts 1:1-12; Luke 24:36-53.

**Hymns of the Feast**

**Apolytikion (Fourth Tone)**

O Christ our God, You ascended in Glory and gladdened Your disciples by the promise of the Holy Spirit. Your blessing assured them that You are the Son of God, the Redeemer of the world.

**Kontakion (Plagal of the Second Tone)**

O Christ our God, upon fulfilling Your dispensation for our sake, You ascended in Glory, uniting the earthly with the heavenly. You were never separate but remained inseparable, and cried out to those who love You, "I am with you and no one is against you."
May 2020

**ALL CHURCH SERVICES CAN BE EXPERIENCED LIVE STREAM ONLY UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE DUE TO THE CORONA VIRUS**

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GOYA News May 2020

In March, we had our usual meeting and planned our retreat to MBC in New Hampshire. Sadly, we had to cancel the retreat weekend due to COVID-19. Once again, thank you to our community for the support. Be safe and stay healthy.

Respectfully submitted,
Ellie Dafulas, GOYA Recording Secretary

Assumption PTO

PTO ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM 2020

Assumption PTO is pleased to announce the 4th Annual PTO Scholarship Program. One high school student of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary Greek Orthodox Church (AVM) parish will be awarded with a scholarship towards furthering their education at an accredited two-year or four-year college, university or vocational school. Each applicant will be evaluated on their participation and fellowship within the AVM parish community. Student participation will be verified accordingly by the Sunday School director, Greek School director, Father Philip, and PTO Board members as needed.

The scholarship will be awarded to the student scoring the highest out of the possible 60 points. Seniors can send an email to the Assumption PTO to request an application. Application deadline is May 20th. For more information or if you would like to make a donation to the PTO Scholarship Fund, please contact PTO at pto@assumptionri.org or speak directly with a board member.

Philoctochoes

Due to the Coronavirus, the planning of Philoptochos events has been postponed. When the time is right, our monthly meetings and planning of events will resume.

If any member of the community requires assistance, please contact Fr. Philip if help is needed, and he will work with Philoptochos to see that the needs are met.

We look forward to returning to our Church and our fellow parishioners.

Ann Mudge
Philoctochoes Recording Secretary
PASCHAL OFFERINGS 2020

Mr. & Mrs. Frank Aguiar
Dr. & Mrs. Vasilis Amfilio
Mr. & Mrs. Anastasios Andrikopoulos
Mr. & Mrs. Elias Antonakos
Mr. & Mrs. Ioannis Apostolakis
Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Bianchi
Mr. & Mrs. Nicholas Bitsakis
Mr. & Mrs. William Campos
Mr. & Mrs. Vasilios Chrysanthopoulos and Family
Mrs. Fotini Demopulos
Mr. & Mrs. George Demopulos
Mor. Fotini Dionisopouloas
Rev. Fr. & Presbytera George Economou
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Forest
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Gallo
Mr. & Mrs. William Gaza
Mr. & Mrs. Brian Gerace
Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Girard
Ms. Barbara Kiras
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Kizirian
Mr. & Mrs. Anastasios Koronios
Mr. & Mrs. Elias Koutros
Mr. & Mrs. George Lambrakis
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Lehourites
Mr. & Mrs. Roger Lemire
Mr. John Lyssikatos
Dr. & Mrs. Melvin Mancini
Mr. & Mrs. Jonathan Mastin
Mr. & Mrs. Mathew Milas
Mrs. Evanne (Papas) Mirabile
Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Mudge
Dr. & Mrs. Nicholas Nikolopoulos
Mr. & Mrs. Constantine Pagonis
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Philippakis
Mrs. Marion Pollock
Mr. George Sioras
Mr. & Mrs. Theodore Soukatos
Mr. & Mrs. Anastasios Stathakis
Mrs. Pashalia Strekouras
Ms. Angela Sukatos
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Thibeault
Mrs. Penelope Vartanian
Carlson / Vastis Family
Mr. & Mrs. George Vastis
Miss Anastasia Vellopoulou
Mr. & Mrs. Louis and Zachare Vinios
Mr. & Mrs. George Vourvachakis
Mrs. Joanne Wright
Dr. Christopher A. Zoto
Rev. Fr. Philip & Presbytera Xanthippi Zymaris and Family

PASCHAL OFFERINGS IN MEMORY 2020

Mr. & Mrs. Vasilios Chrysanthopoulos in loving memory of Athanasios Chrysanthopoulos
Mr. & Mrs. Vasilios Chrysanthopoulos in loving memory of Georgios Andreopoulos
Mrs. Georgette Ferrucci in loving memory of George G. Skoutas and Michael Ferrucci
Mrs. Betty Missirlis in loving memory of Husband George Missirlis and Parents Achille & Martha Sakells
Ms. Patricia Panichas in loving memory of Parents Peter & Helen Panichas and Cousin Kay Matook
Mrs. Dorothy Skoutas in loving memory of George G. Skoutas and Michael Ferrucci
Mrs. Emily Soukas in loving memory of Husband Tom Soukas’ Birthday
Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Girard
Ms. Barbara Kiras
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Kizirian
Mr. & Mrs. Anastasios Koronios
Mr. & Mrs. Elias Koutros
Mr. & Mrs. George Lambrakis
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Lehourites
Mr. & Mrs. Roger Lemire
Mr. John Lyssikatos
Dr. & Mrs. Melvin Mancini
Mr. & Mrs. Jonathan Mastin
Mr. & Mrs. Mathew Milas
Mrs. Evanne (Papas) Mirabile
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Ms. Angela Sukatos
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Thibeault
Mrs. Penelope Vartanian
Carlson / Vastis Family
Mr. & Mrs. George Vastis
Miss Anastasia Vellopoulou
Mr. & Mrs. Louis and Zachare Vinios
Mr. & Mrs. George Vourvachakis
Mrs. Joanne Wright
Dr. Christopher A. Zoto
Rev. Fr. Philip & Presbytera Xanthippi Zymaris and Family

EASTER DONATIONS FOR LENT AND HOLY WEEK 2020

1st Salutations to the Theotokos Icon Flowers
Charlie & Via Lehourites in Loving Memory of Peter & Georgia Lehourites and Bill Stoukides
2nd Salutations to the Theotokos Icon Flowers
George & Panagiota Vastis
for the Good Health of the Vastis Family
3rd Salutations to the Theotokos Icon Flowers
Pashalia Strekouras in Loving Memory of Husband, Nicholas Strekouras
4th Salutations to the Theotokos Icon Flowers
Pashalia Strekouras in Memory of Parents, Constantine & Demetra Poniairos and Sister, Irene Baziotis
Saturday of Lazarus Icon Flowers
The Stratis and Nikou Families for the Good Health of their Families
Palm Sunday Icon Flowers
The Bitsakis Family in Loving Memory of Father and Pappou, Panagiotis Stathatos
6 Palm Trees for Palm Sunday
Rocco & Stasia DeLuca
Palms for Palm Sunday Crosses and for Decorating the Church for Palm Sunday
The Stratis and Nikou Families for the Good Health of their Families
Palm Fans for Iconostasion and Pews
The Sioras Family
Bay Leaves for Holy Saturday Morning
The Sioras Family
Nymphios Icon Flowers
Mr. & Mrs. George Dafulas and Family
Holy Unction Items
Mrs. Vasiliki Andrikopoulos
The Last Supper Icon Flowers
The Stratis and Nikou Families for the Good Health of their Families

Palm Trees for Palm Sunday
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Mr. & Mrs. George Dafulas and Family
Holy Unction Items
Mrs. Vasiliki Andrikopoulos
The Last Supper Icon Flowers
The Stratis and Nikou Families for the Good Health of their Families
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<th>Icon Flowers</th>
<th>Flowers for</th>
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<th>FLowers</th>
<th>Good Health of the Tsimikas Family and Children</th>
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<td>Washing of the Apostles’ Feet</td>
<td>The Tzaferis Family</td>
<td>in Loving Memory of John Tzaferis</td>
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<td>Extreme Humililty</td>
<td>Mr. &amp; Mrs. Stergios Tsimikas</td>
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<td>Crucifixion</td>
<td>Spiros, Maro, and Fotini Dionisopoulos</td>
<td>of the Tsimikas Family and Children</td>
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<td>Crown of Thorns</td>
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<td>12 Candles for 12 Gospels</td>
<td>Stergios &amp; Julia Tsimikas in Memory of their Parents, Nikolaos &amp; Euthoxia Tsimikas and Andreas &amp; Eleni Katsione</td>
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<td>Incense and Rose Water</td>
<td>Spiros, Maro, and Fotini Dionisopoulos in Loving Memory of Fotini’s Grandparents, Theodoros and Fotini Dionisopoulos</td>
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<td>Epitaphio Flowers</td>
<td>Konstantinos &amp; Stephanie Dokos for the Good Health of the Dokos Family Leonidas Foussekis &amp; Samantha Arredondo in Loving Memory of Leo’s Grandfathers Leonidas &amp; Evangelos, Samantha’s Brother and Grandparents, and All Victims of COVID-19 Kyriakos Kondylis &amp; Evangelia Foussekis</td>
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<td>Epitaphio Cross of Flowers</td>
<td>George &amp; Panagiota Vastis in Memory of Parents, Grandparents, Family, and Friends</td>
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<td>Epitaphio Cross of Flowers</td>
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<td>4 Glass Vigil Lights for the Epitaphio</td>
<td>Lygere Panagopoulos</td>
<td>2 in Memory of her Parents, Demetrios and Helen Panagopoulos, 1 for Lygere’s Continued Good Health, and 1 for the Assumption Community</td>
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<td>3 Candles for the Cross</td>
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<td>Rose Petals for Myrrhbearers</td>
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<td>Lygere Panagopoulos</td>
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<td>Resurrection Banner Flowers</td>
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<td>Wine for Holy Communion</td>
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**EASTER DONATIONS LENT AND HOLY WEEK 2020**

![Image](image.png)
Coffee with Sister Vassa

_Touching the Wounds of Christ..._

**Kontakion of Thomas Sunday:** “With his searching hand (Τῇ φιλοπράγμονι δεξιᾷ), Thomas explored Your life-giving side, O Christ God. For when You entered while the doors were shut, he called out to You with the rest of the Apostles: You are my Lord and my God!”

**Ikos:** “Who stopped the hand of the disciple from being melted when he approached the fiery side of the Saviour? Who gave him such boldness, to be able to touch this blazing door? Surely it was the One who was touched, for if He had not given this power to a hand made of clay, how could it have touched the wounds which shook both heaven and earth? And Thomas received the grace to touch Christ and shout out to Him: You are my Lord and my God.”

The Kontakion-and-Ikos of Thomas Sunday, chanted repeatedly in the weekday services of this 2nd Week after Pascha, helps us to contemplate what Thomas’ “exploration” of the risen Lord’s wounds means and why it is relevant for “the rest of the Apostles” – and the rest of us.

What it means, simply put, is that even when our “doors” are shut to communion with Him, Christ overcomes our obstacles by offering Himself, and Himself crucified, to us as our Way and our Door of entrance back into communion. Because we are essentially powerless to unlock the doors of our hearts when we slip into various forms of self-centered God-lessness and fear. Christ’s very wounds are called a “blazing door” in the Ikos-hymn quoted above because it is through them, through participating in His cross-carrying Way, that we enter and re-enter into communion with God and one another. So let me pick up my cross today, once again, and walk through things in faith rather than avoid them in fear. Thus, I reach out and touch the wounds of Christ who is the One who “comes” despite my closed doors. And I say with Thomas and the rest of us: “My Lord and my God!”

Christ is risen, dear friends! Please tune in to our daily weekday “Morning Coffee” audio-podcasts for some daily inspiration on our journey from Pascha to Pentecost! Join our 500+ faith-inspired subscribers at: _patreon.com/sistervassa_.

Love from Vienna, _Sister Vassa_
### Stewards in Good Standing

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### STEWARDSHIP REMINDER

Please help the church meet its operating expenses by making your donation TODAY!!!

### ΥΠΕΝΘΥΜΗΣΗ ΣΥΝΔΡΟΜΗΣ

Αν έχετε ξεχάσει να στείλετε την ετήσια συνδρομή σας για τα έξοδα και τη σωστή λειτουργία της Εκκλησίας, παρακαλείστε να κάνετε την απαραίτητη δωρεά σας ΣΗΜΕΡΑ!!!

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Stewards in Good Standing
Dear friends, from your AHEPA, A121 Pawtucket Chapter: Χριστός Ανέστη! Christ is Risen!

Brotherhood Transcends Isolation

During this difficult time, AHEPA strives to be a resource for its members and the community. We will ensure our mission is being fulfilled! Brotherhood transcends isolation. It cannot be quarantined. We try to stay engaged with the community, we send out informational news and updates and above all we are here to help.

Hellenic History Tournament

For the 5th consecutive year, your local AHEPA Pawtucket Chapter will sponsor our community’s participation in the Hellenic History Tournament! Every year AHEPA (Yankee) District 7 organizes the Hellenic History Tournament (HHT). The Hellenic History Tournament is a competition for high school students about the 3500-year-long history of the Hellenes. It is open to students in grades 8-12 at competition time. Participants have an opportunity to win a share of the $4,500 in prize money. The tournament takes place at St. Barbara Greek Orthodox Church in Orange, CT and it is conducted in English. Please join us in congratulating our youth team. Special thanks to Mr. Lyssikatos for helping our team prepare for the tournament for so many years!

- **Team name:** Molon Lave (Μολών Λαβέ)
- **Team captain:** Nikolaos Platsidakis
- **Team members:** Sofia Stefanopoulos, Konstantina Platsidakis

Pass the time by reading a little (Greek American community) history

Looking to pass the time while doing your part to #StayHome? Are you looking to learn more about the history of the Greek American community? **Did you know . . .** George J. Leber's "The Order of AHEPA 1922-1972: A Tribute to the First 50 Years" is available to read on [www.ahepa.org](http://www.ahepa.org)? The book covers immigration to America, AHEPA's storied and unique founding, and provides a detailed year-by-year account of the contributions to society by AHEPA, including from chapters and districts.

- Learn about the struggles the immigrant community faced in the early 20th century.
- See what prominent members of society joined AHEPA - Greek and philhellene alike.
- Learn about the amazing work performed by AHEPA during WWII and post-WWII.
- And more!
Greek Border Crisis Update
In the last several weeks, Turkey has evacuated the Greek land border at Evros from its masses of young adult immigrants due to the spread of Coronavirus among them and among the Turkish paramilitary forces who were supporting them and forcing them to go through the Greek Border. As a matter of fact, they set on fire the entire camp! The first battle for Greece and Europe was won, the war continues!

Recently, Turkey has been massing large numbers of immigrants on the Turkish coast in the Aegean right across from the Greek Islands. One large scale attempt to land them to the islands of Mytilini and Chios was averted on the weekend of April 11th by coordinated efforts of the Greek government and Greek Armed forces. There is information that many among the immigrants were purposely chosen to be carriers of Coronavirus!

In addition, Greece is keeping an eye on a Turkish port north of Smyrna known for dismantling older ships. It is suspected that older ships are used to land large numbers of immigrants, mostly young adults, from uncertain places with no identification at all to islands in Greece and Italy. How did it come that the first battle of overrunning Greece’s and Europe’s borders at Evros was lost for Turkey? Simply put, they did not account for the Greek people patriotism, the high morale of the Greek Armed forces, and the immediate European help at the border!

Picture of the week!
Two Greek soldiers patrolling one of the most dangerous areas at the Evros border!

Husband and Wife!
Father and Mother of 4 children!

We Must Preserve the Legacy We Inherited!
We need you to join our AHEPA A121 (Pawtucket) Chapter!

We ask all of you to join and support your AHEPA Pawtucket chapter. You can get as much involved as you have time or desire. Please keep in mind that just by becoming a member and through your yearly membership fee, you help us to . . .

- Support AHEPA activities and publications
- Support our Chapter’s activities and representation
- Give strength to our Pawtucket chapter though membership counts
- Provide academic and athletic scholarships
- Make our voice heard for things that matter
- Make a difference in every community and in the country as well

This is an invitation to everyone – we need all of you! Your opinion will always count whether you are attending our meetings in person or you are submitting your ideas via email, phone, text or personal conversation. For membership information, applications please see Yianni Apostolakis, Tom Andrikopoulos or Nick Bitsakis.

For more information, please visit www.ahepa.org.
Dear Friends,

We are all going through challenging times that a few months ago we would have not even thought about. We are not certain about the future. We’ve had to put things on hold. In addition, people around us are getting sick or worse, jobs are lost, and challenging days lie ahead.

Yet, as Orthodox Christians, we know this is an opportunity to show our best. To our Church, to our community, to our families and friends and above all to our neighbors. We cannot solve by ourselves all the problems in the world – however even the smallest help goes a long way!

Χριστός Ανέστη! Christ is Risen!

Sharing Hope in Hard Times

As the global health crisis continues, we think of communities IOCC serves that have faced health challenges for years. Where does change start? For IOCC, it starts with the people in the community who can become ambassadors of a bigger message: religious leaders, educators, and volunteers. IOCC’s work in Ethiopia is a prime example of this model. While we focus on treating podoconiosis, a disfiguring and painful disease, we also focus on educating and informing others. Since podoconiosis can be treated simply and inexpensively, patients often see dramatic results and can return to work, family, and community life. By training leaders who can share this knowledge with their own circles, IOCC is empowering ambassadors to carry these messages back to their own communities. So where does change begin? One person, and one life, at a time.
Friendship Builds Community Amid Challenges

Sometimes it takes a crisis to help us reconnect. Challenges like the current public health emergency can remind us how much we have in common — despite our differences. Thirteen-year-old neighbors Nour and Soumaya attended the same school throughout the year but didn't know each other well. Thanks to summer camp, Nour and Soumaya had a chance to become friends and enjoy activities together. IOCC, in partnership with World Food Program (WFP), created a summer camp to serve Lebanese children and Syrian refugee children where they can come together, play, make friends, and learn important life skills. “I didn't know anyone at the school. Now, I know most of the children here, and I'm happy that I have made a best friend,” said Nour. The health and nutrition-focused summer camp also gave Nour and Soumaya, who are Lebanese, a chance to befriend Sabaa, who is Syrian. “The camp gave us the chance to get to know Syrian students and to get closer to them,” said Soumaya. “We're very happy here. We have learned a lot,” the friends said. In addition to playing and making friends, campers attend educational sessions on health, psychosocial well-being, team building, and more.

Help Us Provide for Those in Need!

Remember, 92 cents of every dollar you give goes to our humanitarian work. The other 8 cents is for administration and fundraising costs. Charity Navigator gives IOCC a 4-star rating (highest possible) for financial health, accountability, and transparency. Every dollar you give helps us secure $7 more in support from governments, foundations, and other sources.

IOCC is the official humanitarian aid agency of the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the United States of America. Since its inception in 1992, IOCC has delivered more than $580 million in relief and development programs to families and communities in more than 50 countries. IOCC is a member of the ACT Alliance, a global coalition of churches and agencies engaged in development, humanitarian assistance, and advocacy. To learn more about IOCC, please visit our website at iocc.org.

Yiannis Apostolakis

Here is How YOU Can Help More!

- Become a monthly donor to IOCC
- Send a donation to IOCC for a cause that touches your heart!
- Give a donation to Ioannis Apostolakis, payable to IOCC, for any occasion you would like to make a difference!
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The weekly, online catechism zillions are watching:

Coffee with Sr. Vassa

Find it on YouTube. Join the zillions.
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καλή όρεξη!

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Help beautify our church grounds. Donations towards our church grounds are always much appreciated. Please bring any donations to the Church Office so that our grounds will remain beautiful year round. Many thanks to Roula Vellopoulos, Nick Vellopoulos, and Ioanna Wright who are our church gardeners spending endless hours planting, watering, and trimming our beautiful flowers and shrubs surrounding our premises.
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